This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-119. (canceled)

120. (currently amended) A composition comprising a duplex consisting of a first chemically synthesized oligonucleotide and a second chemically synthesized oligonucleotide, wherein:

each of the first chemically synthesized oligonucleotide and the second chemically synthesized oligonucleotide independently consists of 17 to 25 linked nucleosides, each nucleoside comprising a nucleobase and a sugar;

the first chemically synthesized oligonucleotide is 100% complementary to the second chemically synthesized oligonucleotide and to a target mRNA;

the first chemically synthesized oligonucleotide and the second chemically synthesized oligonucleotide are not covalently linked to each other; and

the first chemically synthesized oligonucleotide is a gapmer, wherein the gap comprises at least 4 nucleosides, each comprising a 2'-hydroxy-pentofuranosyl sugar moiety, and wherein each nucleoside of each wing comprises a 2'-sugar modification; and

the second chemically synthesized oligonucleotide comprises at least one nucleoside that comprises a 2'-sugar modification.

121. (previously presented) The composition of claim 120, wherein the second chemically synthesized oligonucleotide is a gapmer, wherein the gap comprises at least 4 nucleosides, each comprising a 2'-hydroxyl pentofuranosyl sugar moiety, and wherein each nucleoside of each wing comprises a 2' modification.

122-123. (Canceled)

124. (previously presented) The composition of claim 120, wherein each nucleoside of at least one of the wings of the gapmer comprises a 2' sugar modification selected from fluoro, alkoxy, amino-alkoxy, allyloxy, imidazolylalkoxy, and methoxyethoxy.

125-126. (canceled)

127. (previously presented) The composition of claim 120, wherein each nucleoside of the 3' wing of the gapmer comprises a 2'- OCH_3.

128-135. (Canceled)

136. (previously presented) The composition of claim 120, wherein each wing of the gapmer is from two to seven nucleosides in length.

137. (previously presented) The composition of claim 120, wherein at least one of the first chemically synthesized oligonucleotide and the second chemically synthesized oligonucleotide comprises at least one phosphorothioate linkage.

138. (previously presented) The composition of claim 137, wherein each of the first chemically synthesized oligonucleotide and the second chemically synthesized oligonucleotide comprises at least one phosphorothioate linkage.

139-167. (Canceled)